



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RESTAURANT OWNER CHARGED WITH ARSON

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that RICHARD A. ROMANDINE, age 45, Greencastle, Indiana, was indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for Arson, following an investigation by the ATF, the Indiana Office of the Fire Marshal, the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, and the Cloverdale Police Department.

The indictment alleges that ROMANDINE maliciously damaged and destroyed the building occupied by a restaurant he owned and operated, Rick's Steakhouse, located at 5 South Main Street, Cloverdale, Indiana, by means of arson during the night of November 13, 2005.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Joe H. Vaughn, who is prosecuting the case for the government, ROMANDINE faces a possible prison sentence of a minimum of five years and a maximum of 20 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing

was held at 2:00 p.m. today before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Terre Haute. The matter is set for trial on April 17, 2006, before Chief U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney in Terre Haute.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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